

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS LUSAKA 2103

FOR IOP/M

FOR IBS/PA, PASS IPS

STATE FOR AF/E AND AF/S

NAIROBI FOR VOA

E.O. 11652: N/A

LUSAKA, JULY 20 -- PRESIDENT KAUNDA TODAY NAMED MR. MAINZA M. CHONA AS PRIME MINISTER TO SUCCEED MR. ELIJAH MUDENDA WHO HAS BEEN REASSIGNED AS MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE PARTY. FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PRESS STATEMENT RELEASED THIS MORNING:

"I HAVE TODAY DECIDED TO MAKE A FEW CHANGES IN THE PARTY AND GOVERNMENT. THESE AFFECT THE PREMIERSHIP AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

I HAVE DECIDED TO APPOINT HON. MAINZA M. CHONA, M.P. AS PRIME MINISTER AGAIN. I HAVE ALSO DECIDED THAT HON. E.H.K. MUDENDA SHOULD RETURN TO FREEDOM HOUSE AS A MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

HON. D. M. LISULO, MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR LUSAKA PROVINCE HAS BEEN NOMINATED TO PARLIAMENT AND APPOINTED MINISTER
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OF LEGAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY GENERAL. HON. LISULO WILL RETIAN HIS POSITION AS A MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE TO HON. MUDENDA FOR HIS SERVICES TO THE NATION WHILE HE SERVED IN THE POSITION OF PRIME MINISTER.

I ALSO WANT TO PAY PARTICULAR TRIBUTE TO THE NEW PRIME MINISTER HON. MAINZA CHONA. THE WHOLE NATION KNOWS THAT HE ONCE WAS VICE-PRESIDENT AND THEN PRIME MINISTER AND THAT HE VOLUNTARILY STEPPED DOWN TO TAKE UP THE POSITION OF MINISTER OF LEGAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE POSITION IN WHICH HE HAS SERVED WITH OUTSTANDING LOYALTY AND DEDICATION. HE HAS THUS GIVEN A SHINING EXAMPLE OF HUMILITY IN LEADERSHIP. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT LESSON ALL OF US IN THE NATION MUST TAKE SERIOUSLY. HE WAS PREPARED TO AND IN FACT DID OBEY LEADERS IN SENIOR POSITIONS THAN THAT OF MINISTER; HE OBEYED PEOPLE WHO WERE BELOW HIM WHEN HE SERVED AS PRIME MINISTER. I WANT TO SAY HOW MUCH I SINCERELY APPRECIATE THIS ACT OF LOYALTY TO THE PARTY AND GOVERNMENT AND THE NATION -- THIS ACT OF HUMILITY IN LEADERSHIP. I AM THEREFORE VERY GLAD THAT HE IS NOW BACK TO SERVE THIS NATION IN THE POSITION OF PRIME MINISTER.

I ALSO WANT TO REAFFIRM THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMITMENT TO THE PARTY AND NATION. WE OWE IT TO OURSELVES AND TO THE ENTIRE NATION TO SERVE THE PEOPLE WITH TOTAL DEDICATION AND LOYALTY, TO SERVE THEM WITH LOVE AND TO CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN UNITY WITH JUSTICE IN THE INTERESTS OF CONTINUED PEACE, FREEDOM AND DEVELOPMENT."

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